

A Coal Mine Hazard Awareness and Safety Initiative For Spring

Action Plan

- Each District is to exercise discretion as to the hazards and problem areas most appropriate to the region's accident experience, existing programs and available resources. The Coal Safety Division has identified previously developed training materials; interactive web based training, investigation reports and fatalgrams and organized them by developing tables of web links.
- The Coal Safety Division has developed national discussion points centered on the fatal accidents across the Nation. (National discussion points using fatal grams and alert/best practices associated with each fatal will be used – For National discussion points see CY 2003 Synopsis and Preliminary Cy 2004 Fatal Grams)
- Information for Walk and Talk initiatives during regular inspection activities will be available at W:\Coal\1public\Spring Initiative 2004 on MSHA LAN server. This information includes Sets of Web links to Safety Alerts, Best Practices, Fatalgrams and report, and other relevant resources sorted by surface mine type. This information is avail for the inspections conducted in each district beginning April 19 through June 25, 2004, at all surface mines, surface areas and facilities of underground coal mines, preparation plants and refuse disposal sites and auger or highwall miner operations. This initiative will be conducted across the Nation to increase hazard awareness and to make safety resources available the mine operators through MSHA compliance assistance. All surface coal mines, portable coal mining operations and surface preparation plants and facilities will be visited and as many miners as possible will be contacted. It is intended for these visits to be done in conjunction with normal inspection activities.
- In addition to the national talking points, each district will develop talking points that will focus on specific health and safety issues in their respective districts. Furthermore, the program is flexible enough to allow each district to tailor them to be mine specific. Each field office can then select the material from the attached hyperlinks that is appropriate for their mine specific issues and print the material (See hyperlinks that are included as separate attachments)

- The initiative will focus on both surface supervisors and maintenance personnel and will also emphasize the importance of pre-operating inspections of mobile equipment and safe operation practices. Accidents which involve haul truck or mobile equipment operators and supervisors and/or maintenance personnel have become the major components of surface mining fatalities.
- By implementing this nationwide initiative during the spring quarter, personnel from Technical Support, Tri-state, and EFS groups can arrange their schedules with the District Managers. The District Managers will contact their counterparts in these groups to schedule their participation as the district deems necessary.
- Safety Division will work with OIPA to develop short radio, TV, and newspaper announcements on recent accidents and the need to collectively focus on identifying potential hazards and creating a healthy and safe working environment. At this point in time, no specific events or apparent trends exist. Safety Division will also assist any District in developing such announcement when requested.
- To the extent possible, District Managers will continue to work with local radio and TV stations to do short announcements regarding miners' Health & Safety.
- Progress reporting on the number of sites visited and miners contacted during this initiative will be posted to the W:\coal\1public location.
- Personnel involved in the initiatives should give professional presentations of a serious nature. The presentations should not be rushed, but at the same time, done in a timely manner. We must convey that we are at the mines because we care about miners' health and safety. We must be prepared to take the time to address questions. Questions that don't have a quick answer should not be forgotten. Get the proper answers and then get back to the miners to demonstrate that MSHA really does care about each miner.
- Inspection personnel will continue to reach as many miners as possible during their normal inspection activities. The National discussion points, technical support tips, and fatal reports along with any mine specific selected material will be used in these on-site discussions.
- The following attachments provide links to numerous sites approved by the Accident Prevention Committee. These sites provide beneficial

information to all personnel who will be participating in the initiative and can be used or modified to suit the needs of each district.